

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 5 and 12, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A vessel, comprising:

a propulsion system;

a hull having multiple operating modes in which the hull is operable to be moved by the propulsion system move from a first geographic location to a second geographic location; and

a system operable to select one of the operating modes.

2. (Original) The vessel of claim 1 wherein the system comprises a ballast system that is operable to select one of the operating modes by adjusting the draft of the vessel to a level that corresponds to the selected operating mode.

3. (Original) The vessel of claim 1 wherein the system comprises a ballast system that is operable to select one of the operating modes by adjusting a level of ballast within the vessel.

4. (Original) The vessel of claim 1, further comprising:

a payload; and

wherein the system comprises a ballast system that is operable to select one of the operating modes by adjusting the draft of the vessel using the payload.

5. (Currently Amended) A water vessel, comprising:

a hull having a first hull portion and a second hull portion and having multiple operating traveling modes in which the hull is operable to sail from a first geographic location to a second geographic location; and

a ballast system disposed within the hull and operable to select one of the operating modes corresponding to a predetermined mission by adjusting the draft of the vessel.

6. (Original) The vessel of claim 5 wherein the ballast system is operable to select a catamaran mode of operation by adjusting the draft of the vessel such that the hull is in a catamaran position with respect to the surface of the water.

7. (Original) The vessel of claim 5 wherein the ballast system is operable to select a SWATH mode of operation by adjusting the draft of the vessel such that the hull is in a SWATH position with respect to the surface of the water.

8. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 5 wherein the ballast system is operable to select a low freeboard mode of operation by adjusting the draft of the vessel such that the hull is in a low freeboard position with respect to the surface of the water.

9. (Original) The vessel of claim 5 wherein the ballast system is operable to select a shallow water mode of operation by adjusting the draft of the vessel such that the hull is in a shallow water position with respect to the surface of the water.

10. (Original) The water vessel of claim 5, comprising:

a payload; and

wherein the ballast system is operable to adjust the draft of the vessel using the payload.

11. (Original) The water vessel of claim 5 wherein the first hull portion is parallel or approximately parallel to the second hull portion.

12. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

selecting one of multiple hull modes for a water vessel, the vessel operable to be moved by a propulsion system move in each of the hull modes from a first geographic location to a second geographic location; and

operating the vessel in the selected hull mode.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein selecting the hull mode comprises setting a draft of the water vessel to a level that corresponds to the hull mode.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the hull of the vessel, in the selected hull mode, has a corresponding hydrodynamic property that is related to a submerged portion of the hull.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein selecting the hull mode comprises adjusting the draft of the water vessel to a corresponding level.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein selecting the hull mode comprises adjusting the amount of ballast on the water vessel.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein selecting the hull mode comprises adjusting the amount of payload on the vessel.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein selecting the hull mode comprises adjusting the amount of payload and ballast on the water vessel.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein selecting the hull mode comprises adjusting a position of a payload relative to the water line.